

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph commencing on page 1, line 20 with the following:

Previously, tree seedlings were grown for up to three years in a nursery and then transplanted with bare roots. The disadvantages of such "bare root" planting of tree seedlings have been outlined in the present inventor's prior United States Patent no. 3,722,139. Bare root replanting of tree seedlings has a high failure rate, since the soil into which the seedling is planted may have been overly harsh, cold or dry and the seedling roots may not have had time to develop adequately in a short growing season. Consequently a method of growing seedlings in a soil plug called "styrobloc plugs" has been developed. The soil plug can be planted using a dibble rather than a mattock. According to the current method, styrofoam trays or blocks having an array of cylindrical cavities are used. The cavities are filled with a loose growing soil mixture consisting of peat moss, sawdust and additives covered with loose sand. Generally two tree seeds are placed in each cavity. The trays are then placed in a greenhouse for the seed to germinate in warmth and light. After about 7 months the roots of the seedling have sufficiently developed to hold the growing medium together, forming a plug. At that point the seedlings are ejected from the styrofoam blocks and wrapped and packed for shipping or storage. In this way the roots of the seedling when planted are assured of a moist growing medium.

IN THE CLAIMS

✓ Cancel claims 11 and 15 through 19 inclusive.

Amend claims 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 by replacing with amended claims 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 as follows:

2.(Once Amended) The tree seedling plug of claim 1 wherein said growing medium comprises a loose growing soil mixture consisting of approximately 95% by weight coconut coir fibre, and 5% by weight of thermal-sensitive fibre.

3.(Once Amended) A tree seedling plug comprising a tree seedling having roots, and a first generally cylindrical plug of a first growing medium surrounding said